



Happy 2010 to everyone! We want to say thanks both to you and to God for making 2009 a huge success in offering affordable care to thousands of people in desperate need.

We missed our opportunity to say “Happy Birthday” to Trinity Dental Clinic, so we’ll take it now. On November 24 of last year, we celebrated our first anniversary of the clinic’s opening.

TREATING

In the first year, we surpassed our goals, providing 5685 procedures to over 3200 patients. Unbelievable. Procedures included more than 1200 fillings (that’s saved teeth!) and 84 surgeries for severe dental, head, and neck problems, many of which we provided free of charge.



TEACHING

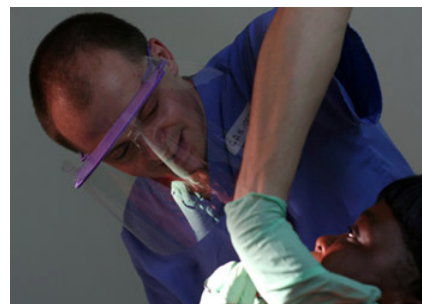
We also now have a full time dental health educator, who spends her days in classrooms around the city teaching students about dental health, and empowering the teachers to carry that information on to future classes. Every patient at the clinic is also given educational literature stressing the importance of early, preventive treatment and the prevention of tooth decay.

TRAINING

We are in the process of educating our assistants to give injections for local anesthesia, and continue to think forward towards a dental therapy training program in the future. The Methodist Church is also looking into starting a dental nurse practitioner training similar to our concept, with which we may be able to combine efforts.

Much Needed Help

We are so happy to welcome Dr. Timothy Bates from the UK to our team for 5 weeks! Thanks, Tim for being here with us, especially after the post-holiday rush!



The Simple Things

With all the complex things that occur from dental problems in Liberia, we sometimes neglect to report and celebrate the simple things we can do. The fillings on the front teeth shown above are simple, common procedures, often done several times a week. We forgot to ask this patient how long she had this decay in her teeth, but our guess would be more than 5 years, and that’s a conservative estimate.

Thanks again to everyone for making our first year a great success, and from the thousands of people who will receive help and healing in the year to come!